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Information and communications technologies for development

Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Georgia, Iraq, Israel, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan: revised draft resolution

Building connectivity through the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/186 of 21 December 2009,

Recalling also the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,[1] and endorsed by the General Assembly,[2] and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,[3] and endorsed by the General Assembly,[4]

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[5]

Stressing the need to reduce the digital divide and to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies, are available to all, and welcoming in this regard the Connect the Commonwealth of Independent States summit, held in Minsk in 2009, as a regional initiative aimed at mobilizing human, financial and technical resources to accelerate the implementation of the connectivity goals of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Noting that Governments, as well as the private sector, civil society and the United Nations, and other international organizations, have an important role in

[1] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.
[2] See resolution 59/220.
[3] See A/60/687.
[4] See resolution 60/252.
[5] See resolution 60/1.

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bridging the digital divide for the benefit of all and in building an inclusive and people-centred information society,

Noting also that information and communications technologies are facilitating the flow of information between Governments and the public and that, in this regard, it is essential to work towards improved access to such technologies, especially broadband networks and services, and to bridge the digital divide, recognizing the contribution of international cooperation in this regard,

Recognizing that well-developed information and communications network infrastructures, such as information superhighways, act as one of the main technological enablers of the digital opportunities, and noting in this regard the Regional Ministerial Meeting on the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway convened by the Government of Azerbaijan in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, held in Baku on 11 November 2008,

Taking note of the establishment of the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway project secretariat in 2011, headquartered in Baku, comprising project operators nominated by participating Governments, and the work undertaken by the secretariat so far,

1. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and can foster economic growth, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, poverty eradication and social inclusion that will help to expedite the integration of all countries, particularly developing countries, into the global economy;

2. *Also recognizes* the immense potential that building connectivity can have in contributing to social progress, including in empowering women and youth and promoting social integration and tolerance;

3. *Stresses* the importance of strengthened and continued cooperation among all stakeholders to build and run information infrastructures in order to bridge the digital divide in the region, and encourages interested Member States to participate in the development of regional connectivity solutions;

4. *Invites* the international community, including Member States, international organizations, the private sector and civil society, to support efforts to improve global telecommunications connectivity, with a focus on countries with inadequate access to the international information and communications technologies backbone, by way of participation in such initiatives as the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway project;

5. *Recognizes* the need to build connectivity in the region to help to bridge the digital divide, and in this regard welcomes the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway project and the support provided thus far by all interested stakeholders;

6. *Also recognizes* the importance and potential of the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway project in supporting the improvement and diversification of telecommunications transit routes between Asia and Europe, and in this regard invites Member States to further support the project by encouraging, as appropriate, the participation of the public and private sectors;

7. *Takes note* of the proposal to establish the Eurasian Connectivity Alliance with the International Telecommunication Union, aimed at highlighting synergies among Governments, the private sector, civil society, academia and international development institutions towards improving the development of regional telecommunications transit routes utilizing innovative and cost-effective working methods without recourse to additional resources.